

certain preliminary precautions had been taken. It was unanimously desired by representative international opinion, as expressed in the Assembly at Geneva in 1924, to amend the Covenant and to fill up this gap. It then became possible to define an aggressor clearly, and to denounce an aggressive war as an international crime. Proposals, having this object, were forwarded from Geneva for approval to the various constituent countries, not necessarily as an ultimate solution, but as a basis for a world conference on disarmament. They were at that time jettisoned by this country without reservation. Great Britain still stood out for the reservation of a right to use force in large ranges of international disputes.

At Christmas time, Christians, turn once more to the lesson of peace and goodwill; but, unless these lessons take a permanent place in modern evolution, the future is not assured. It is not that the people, who stand for moral evolution, are not urging a new international justice, but that the old methods of international intercourse are entrenched under the traditions of secret diplomatic methods, handed down through the archives of history.

Earl Loreborn wrote in 1919: "But reconciliation must come before the League can really succeed, and the prospect of this seems to be daily becoming more remote." This forecast has been proved to be too pessimistic. The League has become an established institution; each year has enlarged the area of its international influence. Those who desired a League of Nations before the Great War, and steadily supported the principle during the War, feel that their faith has been justified, and that Geneva will continue to grow as the centre of a new international peace spirit. It is essential that it should hold its place as a meeting for public discussion between all the constituent countries of the League, great and small, and not be allowed to become merely a convenient meeting place to recreate the old diplomatic methods with the risk of bringing back the heresy that a balance of power, calculated on the strength of rival war equipments, can ever give security to an advancing civilization or ensure an era of progressive industrial stability.

PARMOOR.

---